

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph 4, page 4 (page 4, line 24 through page 5, line 7) , with the following amended paragraph:

In FIG. 4, another embodiment, the threaded length MT is generally straight and the extensions are generally conical. Considering the connection as a box and pin arrangement, abutting shoulders are preferably provided at each end of the threaded engagement portion. In effect the threads or protrusions, pull the shoulders into abutment. The preferred abutments are shaped to prevent the radial separation that axial impacts tend to cause. Both straight and tapered threads are disclosed with the present novel features. Thread forms preferred are square, buttress, and entrapment with the choice influenced by factors including pipe wall thickness and the ratio of diameter to wall thickness of the pipe. The abutments BA and PA have different amounts of taper. As an option, either or both of the extensions can have interference fits to seal the bore or to provide rotational restraint to prevent unscrewing the connection when the hammering takes place. The extensions shown, if tapered as shown, are tighter under hammer blows that typically loosen the load flank of the thread segments. It should be noted that the shock load on the abutments cause the thinner pipe mating part to be thrust toward the nearest radially restraining surface. It should be understood, as illustrated in FIG. 4A, that pipe ends 1b and 2b may be rings to be welded W to other pipe segments PS1, PS2.